

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Francis FLANAGAN et al.

Serial No.: New

Filing Date: February 11, 2002

For: A KEY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, immediately following the title, please insert the following sentence: -This application claims the benefit of and priority from U.S. Provisional application Serial Number 60/267,705 filed February 12, 2001.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

18. (amended) A key management system comprising means for implementing a method as claimed in claim 1.

**REMARKS**

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

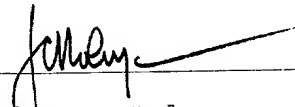
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Atty. Docket: P66398US1  
Date: February 11, 2002  
JCH/cmf

IN THE CLAIMS

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